CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A method for creating a database for a form-based data collection system, comprising the steps of:

5   receiving from a user a document, wherein said document comprises data regarding shapes or graphical objects associated with information comprising one or more of the following: data type, data field size, and field location; and

        populating a database from said information, using said data.

10   2.   A method as in claim 1, wherein said shapes or graphical objects are dragged and dropped into said document.

        3.   A method as in claim 1, wherein said document comprises a plurality of pages.

15   4.   A method as in claim 3, further comprising creating a form using said information associated with each page.

        5.   A method as in claim 4, wherein each form includes a form number.

20   6.   A method as in claim 4, wherein each form includes a form identification bubble.

        7.   A method as in claim 4, further comprising the step of sending created forms via email to said user.

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        8.   A method as in claim 1, wherein said document is a Visio document.

        9.   A method as in claim 4, wherein said document is received via email.

30   10.   A method as in claim 4, wherein said document is a Visio document.

11.   Software for creating a database for a form-based data collection system, comprising:

software for receiving from a user a document, wherein said document comprises data regarding shapes or graphical objects associated with information comprising one or more of the following: data type, data field size, and field location; and

software for populating a database from said information, using said data.

12.   Software as in claim 11, wherein said shapes or graphical objects are dragged and dropped into said document.

13.   Software as in claim 11, wherein said document comprises a plurality of pages.

14.   Software as in claim 13, further comprising software for creating a form using said information associated with each page.

15.   Software as in claim 14, wherein each form includes a form number.

16.   Software as in claim 14, wherein each form includes a form identification bubble.

17.   Software as in claim 14, further comprising software for sending created forms via email to said user.

18.   Software as in claim 11, wherein said document is a Visio document.

19.   Software as in claim 14, wherein said document is received via email.

20.   Software as in claim 14, wherein said document is a Visio document.